

Paula T. Williams



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To the Members of the Committee:

My name is Paula Williams. I am sixty-five years old. In 1998, I was in a slip and fall accident in the Grand Canyon. As a result I have Arachnoiditis, a non malignant disease of the spine, there is no cure. My pain is excruciating. For months several types of medications were prescribed to relieve the pain. Unfortunately nothing much helped until my doctor prescribed OxyContin. For several months this made the pain bearable. During the month of December 1999 we returned to Houston, Tx. The doctors here prescribe the same medications. After exhaustive test and therapies it was determined that the only recourse left was surgery to install an infusion pump. I now have a constant feed of morphine into the effected part of my spine. I am not sure that I would have survived had it not been possible to find a medication to relieve the pain. Malignant disease is not the only dreadful pain humans suffer. Until there is a scientific way to measure pain, the unscrupulous abusers of prescription drugs leave untold hundreds of thousands of suffering people out here because they make it impossible to get the medication they need. Please take all of those into consideration as well as those that abuse in mind in your considerations of what decisions to make about OxyContin. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paula T. Williams